

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A lens unit, comprising:

a plurality of lens frames for holding an imaging optical system, said plurality of lens frames lying in a lens barrel and moving over a stowage interval between a position of stowage at which said lens frames are stowed and a ready-to-image position at which imaging is enabled, and over a zoom interval over which the ready-to-image position exists and a power varying action is executed;

a stepping motor for moving said plurality of lens frames; and

a driving control means for driving and controlling said stepping motor in a first driving mode during execution of a thrusting action for moving said plurality of lens frames from said position of stowage to said ready-to-image position or execution of a stowing action for moving said lens frames from any position within said zoom interval to said position of stowage, and for driving and controlling said stepping motor in a second driving mode, in which a lower current is used than in the first driving mode, during execution of a zooming action for moving said lens frames over said zoom interval,

wherein said driving control means drives and controls said stepping motor according to a two-phase excitation method in said first driving mode and according to a single/two-phase excitation or micro-step driving method in said second driving mode, and

wherein said driving control means drives and controls said stepping motor according to said two-phase excitation method when the power supply is turned off.

14. (Previously Presented) An electronic camera having an electronic imaging means for photoelectrically converting an object image formed by an imaging optical system and thus producing an image signal, an image processing means for performing predetermined processing on the image signal produced by said electronic imaging means and thus converting the image

signal into a predetermined form, and a recording means for recording an output of said image processing means as image data, said electronic camera comprising:

a plurality of lens frames for holding said imaging optical system, said plurality of lens frames lying in a lens barrel and moving over a stowage interval between a position of stowage at which said lens frames are stowed and a ready-to-image position at which imaging is enabled, and over a zoom interval over which said ready-to-image position exists and a power varying action is executed;

a stepping motor for moving said plurality of lens frames;

a conveying means for conveying a driving force produced by said stepping motor to said lens frames; and

a driving control means for driving mode during execution of a thrusting action for moving said plurality of lens frames from said position of stowage to said ready-to-image position or execution of a stowing action for moving said lens frames from any position within said zoom interval to said position of stowage, and for driving and controlling said stepping motor in a second driving mode, in which a lower current is used than in said first driving mode, during execution of a zooming action for moving said lens frames over said zoom interval,

wherein said driving control means drives and controls said stepping motor according to a two-phase excitation method in said first driving mode and according to a single/two-phase excitation or micro-step driving method in said second driving mode, and

wherein said driving control means drives and controls said stepping motor according to said two-phase excitation method when the power supply is turned off.

15. - 20. (Canceled)